

Given the uncertain state of today's world, preserving our military readiness has never been more important. Russia is growing more aggressive in its efforts to disrupt the global order. North Korea continues to provoke the United States and our allies with its nuclear aspirations. Iran's hostile and unpredictable actions threaten democracies around the world, not just in the Middle East. China has become increasingly powerful and more belligerent than ever. The Defense Authorization Act is how we prepare to counter these growing threats at every corner of the globe and improve our national security across the board. We do that through the time-honored notion of peace through strength. The best way to avoid a war is for America to remain strong.

I am incredibly proud that this legislation includes language from a bill I introduced with Senators WARNER, COTTON, and SCHUMER—a bipartisan bill. The goal of this legislation is straightforward—to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States. Since 2000, the United States has dropped from producing roughly a quarter of the world's semiconductors now down to about 12 percent, and the semiconductors that make up your iPhone or that go into an F-35 are sole-sourced from a Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company, obviously located overseas.

If we have learned one thing from this virus, it is of the vulnerability of our supply chains, and it doesn't take a lot of imagination to understand, with the threat to our economy and the threat to our national security, that the sole-source supply chain should be disrupted. There are the obvious economic consequences. Why buy these chips from other countries when we could be making them ourselves? We could boost an entire industry, including high-paying jobs right here in the United States. As I said, that is only part of the equation, because semiconductor manufacturing isn't just about the economy and jobs; it is about national security. Chips aren't just in televisions, dishwashers, and consumer electronics; they are a vital part of our cell towers, missile defense systems, and other critical infrastructure.

If you need an example of just how important it is to have a reliable supply of our most crucial devices, just look at the PPE shortage during the COVID-19 crisis. China has long been a supplier of masks, gloves, gowns, and other personal protective equipment used primarily by our healthcare workers. For a long time, that wasn't really a problem, but then COVID-19 showed that it was a problem.

By the time the virus began to move across the United States, China had been battling it for months. So when it came time for American hospitals and clinics and healthcare providers to beef up their supplies of PPE, their supplies had already been depleted. Healthcare workers, you will recall, were reusing

masks throughout an entire shift in order to conserve supplies, and hospitals were pleading with the general public to donate any unused personal protective equipment to help keep healthcare workers safe. We didn't reach that point because of a lack of preparation by hospitals but because of our reliance on vulnerable supply chains—notably, out of China—to produce that gear.

Now imagine a supply chain breakdown happening for every industry that relies on semiconductors. Everything from healthcare, to telecommunications, to agriculture, to manufacturing would be paralyzed by a disruption of that supply chain. So one thing this virus has taught us, among other things, is to eliminate those supply chain vulnerabilities, and it is a clear signal that we need to take action to secure other critical supply chains beyond just semiconductors.

The inclusion of this provision in the NDAA was a strong start. We had a great vote of 96 Senators voting for the inclusion of this provision in the National Defense Authorization Act—strong bipartisan support. This provision in the NDAA will help restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by creating a Federal incentive program through the Department of Commerce to encourage chip manufacturing here. It will stimulate domestic advanced semiconductor manufacturing and boost both our national security and global competitiveness. It will enable us to bring manufacturing jobs back to American soil so we can reduce our reliance on China and other foreign countries and strengthen the supply chains of our most critical industries.

Now comes the hard part—we have to pay for it. On Friday afternoon, I spoke with Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Ross about this legislation from, as I said, both national security and economic perspectives. Last month, the Commerce Department sent a report to the Committee on Appropriations detailing its plans to implement a semiconductor manufacturing incentive program. For everything from the authorities that will be used to establish the program to the coordination with industry leaders, the Commerce Department is ready to hit the ground running. Both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce agree—Congress must act soon and back these programs with funding.

It is estimated that China will spend \$250 billion on semiconductor manufacturing in the coming years. If left unmatched, it will control 80 percent of the semiconductor manufacturing market. If that happens, the United States will not be able to recover lost ground, which is why it is critical that we act now. Thankfully, with the help of private industry here in the United States, we can do more with less. We can stop the slide of manufacturing power to China if we put even 10 percent of what China is spending toward

this essential element of our national security and our economic competitiveness.

The Senate passed this amendment over the summer with overwhelming support. I hope my colleagues on both sides will join me in continuing to fight to secure funding for this bipartisan priority, which will bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States and close a glaring and dangerous national security gap.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN INVESTIGATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for over a year, Senator JOHNSON and I investigated the Biden family's financial dealings. For over a year, the liberal media and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle falsely said that we were peddling Russian disinformation. They ginned up any story they could to falsely portray our investigation in an effort to delegitimize the report's findings. Even my colleague Senator WYDEN, with whom I have worked on many bipartisan investigations, said the following:

This disinformation also became the basis of the Johnson-Grassley investigation. The political nature of this investigation has been clear all along. Bottom line: The Johnson-Grassley investigation is baseless. It is laundering Russian propaganda for circulation in the United States.

It seems the liberal media and Democrats have a very nervous tick. Any time a Republican gets close to the truth and is about to serve justice, the other side yells: "Russian disinformation." Of course, as we see now, that is a load of garbage.

As I have said on this floor several times before, our report was rooted in information from U.S. Government agencies and a left-aligned U.S. lobby shop that represented a corrupt Ukrainian gas company, and by now, the American people know that it is really the Democrats and liberal media that are connected to Russian disinformation. Just think of the Steele dossier. It was infected with Russian disinformation and paid for by the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign.

The liberal media and those on the other side of the aisle were scared of the facts. They were scared that the American people would see the Biden family's deep and extensive link to foreign governments, including the Communist Chinese Government.

And once Senator JOHNSON and I released publically our findings, those same liberal outlets said the report repackaged old material and that there wasn't really anything new to it.

They went into full Joe Biden protection mode, and they didn't even try to hide it.

One Washington Post columnist said: "Even after accepting disinformation from Russian agents, JOHNSON and GRASSLEY couldn't come up with anything new or interesting on Hunter Biden."

Well, we know today the Post should be ashamed that they said that.

POLITICO ran a story with this headline: "GOP Senators' anti-Biden report repackages old claims."

And National Public Radio said about the New York Post Hunter Biden stories: "We don't want to waste our time on stories that are not really stories, and we don't want to waste the listeners' and readers' time on stories that are just pure distractions," end of the NPR quote.

Now, look at what Twitter and Facebook did to Hunter Biden news. Simply said, they interfered in the election and gave the Biden campaign a multimillion-dollar in-kind donation, courtesy of their blatant and unforgiveable censorship.

So, my fellow Americans, let us never forget what Twitter and Facebook did during the 2020 elections.

Now, let's fast forward to this very day. Now it is confirmed that Hunter Biden is under criminal investigation, reportedly for his taxes and financial dealings—the very fact pattern that we described in the Johnson-Grassley report.

It shouldn't take Hunter Biden to confirm that he is under criminal investigation before the mainstream press gets permission—from whom, I don't know—to report the news. It is a complete outrage the way the liberal media used its power to cover up facts relating to Hunter Biden and the Biden family and, yet, ran story after story with false information about the Russian investigation into Trump and the credibility of the Steele dossier.

The recent news also shows that our report was not "baseless"—that is the word that shows up all the time—and it didn't "repackage old claims." That is another set of words that showed up quite regularly as people were trying to distract the Johnson and Grassley report.

So quite the opposite—our report was well-founded, ahead of the curve, and right on the money, in more ways than one.

Our report teed up the facts, but the mainstream press never stepped up to the plate.

Some of the Nation's supposedly leading press outlets, with teams of investigative reporters, were scooped by the Congress—the Johnson-Grassley report. Now, of course, they are scrambling to chase the story that they for so long ignored.

Now, it didn't have to be this way. We already did much of the heavy lifting before issuing our report. The report made public information that hadn't ever been known before. For ex-

ample, it showed the following: Hunter Biden and his associates and family members were connected to Chinese nationals and Chinese companies linked with the Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army. This includes the CEFC China Energy Company Limited and that company's subsidiaries.

Records show that a company linked to the Communist regime sent Hunter Biden's law firm millions of dollars.

Other records show that Hunter Biden opened a line of credit with a Chinese national linked to the Communist regime and funded it with approximately \$100,000. Then he, James Biden, and Sara Biden went on an extravagant global spending spree.

Still other records show that Hunter Biden, via his law firm, also sent a million dollars to James Biden's consulting firm, the Lion Hall Group. These transfers began less than 1 week after CEFC sent \$5 million to a company called Hudson West III, a company linked to CEFC and Chinese nationals associated with the Communist regime, which then sent money to Hunter Biden's law firm.

When the bank contacted Sara Biden, who was associated with the firm's bank account, she refused to answer their questions and provide any additional documentation. According to the records that we have on file, the bank submitted the account for closure.

Senator JOHNSON and I recently issued a supplemental to our report that showed Hunter Biden's close business associate Rob Walker received \$6 million from a Chinese company linked to the Communist regime.

There is yet another link in the chain from the Biden family and their associates to the Chinese Government.

The report also showed that State Department officials believed that Hunter Biden's Burisma board membership created the perception of a conflict of interest and was "very awkward for all U.S. officials pushing an anticorruption agenda in Ukraine," end of quote from a State Department official.

Secretary of State Kerry publicly denied knowing of Hunter Biden's role on the Burisma board. We acquired evidence that shows that Kerry did, in fact, know about that role.

In December 2015, instead of following U.S. objectives of confronting oligarchs, Vice President Biden's staff advised him to avoid commenting on Burisma's oligarch and instead say: "I am not going to get into naming names or accusing individuals."

Joe Biden was running an anticorruption agenda in Ukraine, and he pulled his punches while his son was on the board of Burisma.

Based on witness testimony, Burisma's owner allegedly paid a \$7 million bribe to officials serving under Ukraine's prosecutor general to shut the case against him. When he allegedly paid that bribe, Hunter Biden was on the Burisma board.

These examples are just a sampling from the report that Senator JOHNSON and I put out and just the tip of the iceberg with respect to the Biden family's troubled ties to governments adverse to U.S. interests.

These associations, and the millions of dollars that passed between and among Hunter Biden, James Biden, and others, create criminal financial, counterintelligence, and extortion concerns. That is why I have written to the Justice Department about the risk that Hunter and James Biden essentially served as agents of the Communist government for purposes of their registering under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

After Hunter Biden publicly confirmed he was under criminal investigation, liberal news outlets reported on concerns that his financial associations could create criminal financial and counterintelligence problems—something you heard from the Johnson-Grassley report several weeks ago. That is what we said in September 2020, and we were roundly criticized for it.

And just over the weekend, a new email was made public that reportedly says that Joe Biden and his brother were "office mates" with the very same Chinese nationals whom we wrote about in our report. Those same individuals were the ones with links to the Communist regime and that regime's military.

Based on all the facts known to date, Joe Biden has a lot of explaining to do. I have run many oversight operations and investigations during the course of my career. I am interested in the facts, in the evidence, and in the truth. I learned a lesson a long time ago when I first started my oversight focus; that is, no matter how difficult the media or the other side of the aisle makes it to find the facts, never give up. Keep working hard. The American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

That is the attitude and approach that I have had my entire career, and that is what I will take with me as I continue to look into the Biden family matters and as I move to a leadership position on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK SHOOTING

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, 8 years ago this morning, I was in Bridgeport, CT. I had done an event early that morning with the mayor, and I was due to meet my wife and my two children—then 4 years old and 1—on a train platform in Bridgeport to head down to New York City, to spend the rest of that Friday afternoon with my young kids, their first chance to see the Christmas decorations of the city.

I received a phone call while on the train platform telling me that something had happened in Sandy Hook, CT. Sandy Hook is a section of Newtown, CT.